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## EDITORIAL

Louisian, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, for instance, adopted books not less than twenty-five houses made bids and had agents present, and in one or two instances over thirty firms made bids. The agents who represent the publishing houses are in almost every instance former teachers and trained book experts. Their business is to riddle the book or their competitors and show up any misstatements of facts or errors in method. If anything should happen to be the matter with book bids in a State adoption the opposing agents will certainly let it be known. Then, too, the textbook board, consisting of the leading educators of the State, is the jury which makes the final awards. Such a board, with such competition, is not nearly so apt to adopt sectional books as the average county board. Publicity in the adoption of school books is need in Florida. All publishers should be invited to make bids and have agents present. This is best secured by State uniformity. The present method of procedure in Florida does not invite the competition that is invited in other States having county or district uniformity, and that is the reason some of the counties of Florida have been loaded up with sectional books. The opposing agents, who represent books that are not sectional, do not get an opportunity to show the other books up. The Board of Education that has an adoption of books with only the agent of one publishing house present and gives it the entire contract, is as culpable as a court that would sit to hear a case and have but on side represented by counsel and the other not notified even that a trial was taking place. Yet this has been the method of procedure in a majority of the counties in Florida. With the responsibility resting on a State book commission and the fierce competition that exists between the different publishers, the people of Florida need not fear that they will have any sectional books saddled on them.

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